

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 WARSAW 04589 021337Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03
 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07
 CEA-01 PA-01 /092 W
 -----049979 030658Z /13

R 020634Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5375
USDOC WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL KRAKOW POUCH
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL POZNAN POUCH
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USNATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE WARSAW 4589

EO 11652NA
TAGS: ECON, ETRD, APAP, PL
SUBJ: POLISH GOVERNMENT RAISES PRICES OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1. ON MAY 29 THE POLISH PRESS REPORTED A COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS' RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE PRICE OF
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN POLAND BY AN AVERAGE OF 25
PERCENT. THE INCREASE BECAME EFFECTIVE ON SUNDAY,
MAY 28. THE PRICES FOR LIQUORS WITH A HIGH ALCO-
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 WARSAW 04589 021337Z

HOLIC CONTENT SUCH AS VODKA AND SPIRITUS (A TYPE
OF GRAIN ALCOHOL) WERE RAISED SUBSTANTIALLY
(IN SOME CASES AS MUCH AS 50 PERCENT), AND PRICES
OF BEER AND WINES WERE INCREASED BY TEN AND FIFTEEN
PERCENT RESPECTIVELY.

2. ACCORDING TO SUBSEQUENT ARTICLES IN TRYBUNA LUDU

AND OTHER NEWSPAPERS, THE GOVERNMENT MADE THE PRICE INCREASES IN RESPONSE TO COMPLAINTS BY "THE PEOPLE" REGARDING THE DELETERIOUS EFFECT OF ALCOHOLISMS ON THE NATIONAL WELFARE. THE NEW MEASURE IS DESCRIBED AS MERELY THE MOST RECENT AND STRONGEST OF A NUMBER TO WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS RESORTED IN ITS EFFORTS TO COMBAT ALCOHOLISM. THE PRESS ALSO COMMENTS THAT PRICE INCREASES WILL NOT ELIMINATE THE PROBLEM, BUT WILL AT LEAST REDUCE EXCESSIVE PURCHASES OF INTOXICATING BEVERAGES "IN SOME CIRCLES".

3. PRESS REPORTS ALSO PROVIDE SOME INTERESTING STATISTICS ON ALCOHOLIC CONSUMPTION IN POLAND. BETWEEN 1974 AND 1977, CONSUMPTION INCREASED BY 32 PERCENT, RISING 1.2 PERCENT FOR EVERY PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN NATIONAL WAGES.

4. COMMENT: WE DO NOT EXPECT THESE INCREASES TO HAVE ANY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON ALCOHOLIC CONSUMPTION IN POLAND, JUST AS PRICE INCREASES FOR GASOLINE AND TAXI FARES A FEW MONTHS AGO HAVE HAD NO NOTICEABLE EFFECT ON THE USE OF PRIVATE CARS OR URBAN TRAFFIC DENSITY. PROBABLY THE MAJOR RESULT WILL BE A FURTHER REDUCTION IN CASH LIQUIDITY AND THE REAL INCOME OF THE AVERAGE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 WARSAW 04589 021337Z

FAMILY. BEFORE MAY 28, ALCOHOL WAS RELATIVELY CHEAP IN POLAND, CERTAINLY MUCH CHEAPER THAN THE PRICES CHARGED IN NEIGHBORING SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES AND IN EAST GERMANY AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA. END COMMENT.
SCHAUFLE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRICES, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978WARSAW04589
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780232-0797
Format: TEL
From: WARSAW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806100/aaaadiab.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1014077c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2135654
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLISH GOVERNMENT RAISES PRICES OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
TAGS: ECON, ETRD, EPAP, PL
To: STATE COM
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1014077c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014